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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
Eighth session
Geneva, 21–22 April 2016
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development
4. Review of UNCTAD efforts to strengthen commodity production in commodity-dependent developing countries and improve food security and export competitiveness in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals
5. Adoption of the report of the meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the expert meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

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Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the eighth session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I. The expert meeting will have two days, from 21 to 22 April 2016, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the two days is attached in the annex to this document. A detailed programme will be available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/32 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

3. The overall topic of the fifth to eighth sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development, to be held each year from 2013 to 2016, was decided at the fifty-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board in 2012. The terms of reference of the eighth session were approved at the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Board held on 30 November 2012. The purpose of the multi-year expert meeting is to monitor the developments, opportunities and challenges in commodity markets, giving due attention to those commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries.

4. Discussion on these topics, which will include presentations by national experts and experts from relevant international organizations and commodity bodies, as well as representatives of the private sector and civil society, will serve to inform UNCTAD member States on important developments in key commodity sectors and markets from a development perspective.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat prepared a document entitled "Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development". The paper reviews recent developments in key commodity markets, including agriculture, minerals, ores and metals, and energy. It highlights price trends and driving forces of price movements and identifies emerging developments in the global commodity economy that are set to change the commodity landscape and pose new challenges for commodity-dependent developing countries. The document concludes with policy recommendations to address those challenges and ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development in those countries.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/33 Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

Item 4
Review of UNCTAD efforts to strengthen commodity production in commodity-dependent developing countries and improve food security and export competitiveness in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

6. The terms of reference for the eighth session indicate that the meeting should review and evaluate UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, in light of the post-2015 development agenda, as appropriate, including efforts to strengthen commodity production and improve food security and export competitiveness, taking into account the needs of small-scale producers, family, farms, women and youth in their efforts to increase gains from commodity production and trade. They also stipulate that at the meeting measures should be suggested that could help to address the negative impact of volatility in commodity markets and integrate sustainable and inclusive growth and development strategies into national policies.

7. To facilitate the discussion under the agenda item, the secretariat issued a background note entitled "Review of UNCTAD efforts to strengthen commodity production in commodity-dependent developing countries and improve food security and export competitiveness in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals". The note reviews recent activities of the UNCTAD Special Unit on Commodities in support of commodity-dependent developing countries under the three pillars, namely research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation. It highlights the continued decline in commodity prices and its negative implications on the socioeconomic sector of commodity-dependent developing countries. The note ends with some policy suggestions that could be pursued to mitigate those effects.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/34 Review of UNCTAD efforts to strengthen commodity production in commodity-dependent developing countries and improve food security and export competitiveness in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

Item 5
Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts: Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for achieving food security, commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers, which should draw on the experts' experience, may address one or more of the following issues:

(a) What have the drivers of price trends been in recent years in commodity markets, and what are the opportunities and challenges faced by commodity-dependent developing countries stemming from those trends?

(b) How can trade in primary commodities make a positive contribution to development?

(c) What mechanisms allow primary commodities to enhance trade and contribute to sustainable development?

(d) What policy options do commodity-dependent developing countries have to achieve their food security objectives in the emerging new global environment?

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Annex

Provisional meeting schedule

Wednesday *21 April 2016*	*Thursday* *22 April 2016*
(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)	*(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)*
Plenary Opening statement Item 1 Election of officers Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Item 3 Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development – Agricultural commodities	Item 4 Review of UNCTAD efforts to strengthen commodity production in commodity-dependent developing countries and improve food security and export competitiveness in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals
(3–6 p.m.)	*(3–5.30 p.m.)*
Item 3 (continued) Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development – Minerals, ores and metals – Energy: oil, gas and coal	Item 4 (continued) Review of UNCTAD efforts to strengthen commodity production in commodity-dependent developing countries and improve food security and export competitiveness in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals
	(5.30–6 p.m.)
	Item 5 Adoption of the report of the meeting